

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A linear drive device comprising:

an excitation winding producing a variable magnetic field and including an associated magnetic-flux-carrying yoke body having pole surfaces; and

an armature body including a magnet carrier having at least two permanent magnet parts and an axial oscillation movement being transferable to the at least two permanent magnet parts by the variable magnetic field of the excitation winding, the magnet carrier including an electrically insulating material ~~and~~ at least partially extending into the magnetic field area defined by the pole surfaces of the yoke body and the excitation winding, the electrically insulating material and its disposition to partially extend into the magnetic field area defined by the pole surfaces of the yoke body and the excitation winding operating to substantially avoid an induction of eddy currents adjacent the pole surfaces of the yoke body.

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein the magnet carrier consists entirely of an insulating material.

14. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein the magnet carrier includes a metal material and the parts of the magnet

carrier which extend into the magnetic field area of the yoke body and the excitation winding are constructed of an insulating material.

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein each magnet part with respect to the associated yoke body and the excitation winding is covered by a magnetic cover made of a ferromagnetic layer, a spacing joint axially spacing apart the magnetic covers.
16. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 15, wherein the ferromagnetic magnet covers are spaced apart from one another by a distance $a > 2s$, where s is the distance of the magnet covers from the respective pole surface of the associated yoke body.
17. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 15, wherein each magnet cover covers a larger area than the respectively associated magnet part.
18. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 15, wherein the magnet covers include an Fe-Si alloy.
19. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 15, wherein the magnet covers each have a thickness between 0.2 mm and 1.5 mm.
20. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein the magnet covers each have a thickness between 0.35 and 1 mm.
21. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein the magnet parts are embodied as plate- or sheet-shaped.

22. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, further comprising a plane of symmetry and the device being constructed symmetrically with respect to the plane of symmetry.
23. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein the armature body is rigidly connected to a pump plunger of a compressor.
24. (New) A linear drive device comprising:
an excitation winding producing a variable magnetic field having a longitudinal extent along a longitudinal axis, the excitation winding including an associated magnetic-flux-carrying yoke body having a pair of pole surfaces axially spaced from one another relative to the longitudinal axis; and

an armature body including a magnet carrier having a plurality of permanent magnet parts and a pair of electrically insulating portions, the armature body being movable in an axial oscillation movement that is transferable to the at least two permanent magnet parts by the variable magnetic field of the excitation winding, the pair of electrically insulating portions being axially spaced from one another relative to the longitudinal axis and at least one of the plurality of permanent parts is disposed axially intermediate the pair of electrically insulating portions, and each one of the pair of electrically insulating portions is disposed to at least partially extend into a respective magnetic field area defined by a respective one of the pair of pole surfaces of the yoke body and the excitation winding.
25. (New) The device according to claim 24, wherein the magnet carrier consists entirely of an insulating material.

26. (New) The device according to claim 24, wherein the magnet carrier includes a metal material and the parts of the magnet carrier which extend into the magnetic field area of the yoke body and the excitation winding are constructed of an insulating material.
27. (New) The device according to claim 24, wherein each magnet part with respect to the associated yoke body and the excitation winding is covered by a magnetic cover made of a ferromagnetic layer, a spacing joint axially spacing apart the magnetic covers.
28. (New) The device according to claim 27, wherein the ferromagnetic magnet covers are spaced apart from one another by a distance $a > 2s$, where s is the distance of the magnet covers from the respective pole surface of the associated yoke body.
29. (New) The device according to claim 27, wherein the magnet covers include an Fe-Si alloy.
30. (New) The device according to claim 27, wherein the magnet covers each have a thickness between 0.2 mm and 1.5 mm or a thickness between 0.35 and 1 mm.
31. (New) The device according to claim 24, wherein the armature body is rigidly connected to a pump plunger of a compressor.